

AN
ABSTRACT
OF
THOSE ANSWERS

Which were given in the
ASSEMBLY of the LORDS in
the High Court of

PARLIAMENT,

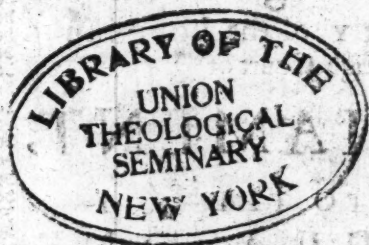
UNTO THE
NINE REASONS,

SENT UP
FROM THE HOUSE

OF
COMMONS,

Against the VOTING of BISHOPS
in PARLIAMENT.

Printed Anno Dom. 1541.



NOV 18 1944



That Bishops ought not to vote
in PARLIAMENT.

Because it is a very great hinderance to the exercise Reason 1.
of their Ministeriall Function.

IT is not so much hinderance as their conveneing *Answ*
to generall Councils, Synods, Convocations,
Assemblies, Classes, and the like, in all the Churches Reformed or otherwise.

2 It is *propter majus bonum Ecclesie*.

3 The Apostles unnecessarily put themselves
to more hinderances, to worke for their lively-hood,
Act. 20. 24. 1. Thes. 2. 9. 2. Thes. 3. 8.

4 What hinderance can it be to their calling,
that once in three yeares, when they must necessarily
attend the Convocation, they divide some
part of that short time to the attendance of Parliament?

*Because they doe vow and undertake it at their Ordination, when they enter into holy Orders, that they will
give themselves wholly to that Vocation.* Reason 2.

This vow and undertaking in Ministers Ordination is quite mistaken: The words are in the Bishops Exhortation, not in the Ministers Answer. *Answ.*

2 The Bishop hopes they will give themselves
wholly to that, and not to any other Trade or Vocation.

A 2

3 Wholly,

Wholly in a *Secular* and not in a *Mathematicall* sense, that will admit no Latitude: Else, there might the same exception be taken against their just care of provision for their household affaires.

Reason 3. *Because Councils and Canons in severall Ages doe forbid them to meddle in secular affaires.*

Ans. 1 Councils and Canons against Bishops Votes in Parliament, were never in use in this Kingdome, and therefore they are abolished by the Statute of 25. H. 8.

2 So are they by the same Statute, because the Lords have declared, that the Bishops vote here by the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme: And all Canons that crosse with those, are there abolished.

3 So are they by the same Statute, as thwarting the Kings Prerogative to call Bishops by Summons to Vote in Parliament.

4 So they are by the Vote in the House of Commons, 21. Maie 1641. because they are not confirmed by Act of Parliament.

5 This Argument was in a sort deserte. by Mr. Perpoint, and confest to be but an *Argumentum ad hominem*.

Reason 4. *Because the 24. Bishops have a dependency upon the Archbishops, and because of their Canonick obedience to them.*

Ans. 1 They have no Dependency upon the Archbishops, but in points of Appeale, and Visitation onely: And owe them no Obedience but in these two points. None at all in Parliament, where they are

are *Paras*, their Equals: And as *Bracton* tells us, *Paria
Parem non habet imperium*. What hath Canonick
Obedience to doe with a Vote in Parliament, declar-
ed in this Bill to be no Ecclesiasticall, but a secular
affaire?

2. This *Argument* reacheth not the two Arch-
Bishops, discharged in the Rubrick from this Oath,
and therefore is no reason for the passing of this bill.

Because they are but for their lives, and therefore are Reason 5.
*not fit to have Legislative power over the honours, in-
heritances, persons, and liberties of others.*

1. Bishops are not for their lives onely, but for
their successors also in the Land and Honour that
pertaine to their places: as the Earles and Barons al-
so are for their successors in their owne Lands and
Honours: And, holding their Lands in Fee simple,
may with as good Reason vote in the Honours, inhe-
ritance, persons, and liberties of others, as others
may, and doe in theirs.

Ans.

2. Many Peeres have beene created for their lives
onely, and the Earle of Surrey for the life of his Fa-
ther, who yet voted in this house.

3. The Knights, Citizens, and Burgeses, are cho-
sen for one Parliament only, and yet use their Legis-
lative power. Nor will their being elected diffe-
rence their Cause; for the Lords use that power, in
a greater Eminence, who are not elected.

4. A Burgesse, that hath free-hold but for terme of
life only, may vote and assent to a law in Parliament.

5. No such exception was ever heard of in the
Diets of *Germanie*, the Corteses of *Spain*, or
the three Estates of *France*, where the *Prelates*

vote in all these Points, with the Nobility and the Commons.

Reason 6. *Because of Bishops dependancy and expectancy of Translations to places of greater profit.*

Ans. 1 This Argument supposeth all Kings, and all Bishops to bee very faulty, if they take the time of their votes in Parliament, from these dependences, and expectancies.

2 This may be said of all the Kings great Officers, of all the noble members of both Houses, who may be conceived, as well as Bishops, to have their expectancies, and consequently to be deprived by this Reason of voting in Parliament.

3 This Argument reacheth not at the two Archbishops, and so falls short of the votes, which are to be taken away by this Bill.

Reason 7. *That severall Bishops have of late much encroached upon the Consciences, and properties of the Subject. And they and their successors will be much encouraged still to encroach, and the subject will be much discouraged from complaining against such encroachments, if 26. of that Order be to be Judges upon these complaints. The same Reason extends to their Legislative power, in any Bill to passe for the Regulation of their power, upon any emergent inconveniency by it.*

Ans. 1 This Argument fights not against Bishops votes in Parliament; but against their votes in Convocation, where (if any where) they have encroached upon the Consciences and properties of the Subject: Nor yet at the votes of such Bishops there, as are not guilty of this offence. Nor need the Subject to be discouraged in complaining against the like Grievances, though 26. of that Order continue Judges:

For

For they shall not vote as Judges in their owne cause, when they are legally charged: And if they should vote, what were that to the purpose, when the Lay-Peeres are still foure to one? The Bishops (assisted with a double number of Mitred Abbots, and Priors) could not hinder the Lawes made against the Court of *Rome*, the Alien Cardinalls, and Prelates, the Provisors, the Suitors to the Popes Consistory under *Ed. 3. Rich. 2. and Hen. 4.* much more may those emergent exorbitances of the Ecclesiasticall jurisdiction be soone curb'd and redress'd in this inequality of votes betweene the Temporall and Spirituall Lords. So as this Argument doth not so much hurt the votes, as it quailles the courage of the Bishops, who may justly feare, by this and the next Argument, that the taking away of their votes is but a kind of fore-runner to the abolishing of their jurisdiction.

Because the whole number of them is interess'd to maintaine the jurisdiction of Bishops; which hath beene found so grievous to the three Kingdomes, that Scotland hath utterly abolished it, and multitudes in England and Ireland have petitioned against it. Reason 8.

1 This Argument is not against the Votes of Bishops, but against Episcopacy it selfe, which must be removed, because *Scotland* hath done so, and some in *England* and *Ireland* would have it so: And yet peradventure ten times as great a somme as these desire the contrary. *Answ.*

2 There will be found Peeres enough in the Upper House to reforme any thing that is amisse in the Ecclesiasticall jurisdiction, although the 26. Prelates should be so wicked as to oppose it: as there were found

found Peeres enough in that noble Houſe, to curb
the Court of *Rome*, and the Revenues of the Car-
dinalls under *Ed. 3.* To meet with the Provifors un-
der *Rich. 2.* To put all the Clergy into a *Premunire*
under *Hen. 8.* And to reforme the Religion, *1. Elis.*
notwithſtanding the oppoſition of all the Biſhops.

Reason 9. *Because Biſhops being Lords of Parliament, it ſetteth
too great a diſtance betweene them and the reſt of their
Brethren in the Miniſtery, which occaſioneth pride in
them, diſcontent in others, and diſquiet in the Church.*

Anſw.

This is an Argument from *Morall Philoſophie*,
which affords no *Demonſtrations*. All are not proud
that vote in Parliament, nor diſcontented, that are
not ſo employed. This Argument fights only againſt
the title of being Lords, which is not the Queſtion at
this time. And were thoſe Brethren ſo wiſe and well
affected as they might be, they would rejoyce rather
that ſome of their owne profeſſion are advanced to
thoſe places, wherein they may be capable, upon all
occasions, of doing good offices to them, and to this
whole Church.

FINIS.

Library of the

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

New York

